

(Draft) KCAF – Minutes of the Meeting
Monday 10th September 2018
Natural England offices, International House Dover Place, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU

In attendance		
Jeremy Boxall	JBox	Chair
Anne Beecham	ABe	Vice Chair & Other Interest Representative – Tourism
Averil Brice	ABr	User Representative – Walking
Theresa Trussell	TT	Other Interest Representative – Multi User Groups
Linda Griffin	LG	Other Interest Representative – Cultural and Landscape Heritage
Mandy Arthur	MA	Access Forum Support (Kent County Council)
Graham Rusling	GR	Public Rights of Way and Access Service Manager (Kent County Council)
Guest		
Kevin Haugh	KH	Natural England
Apologies		
Richard Dickenson	RD	Vice Chair & User Representative – Motorised Vehicles
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Steve Neville	SN	User Representative – Cycling
Kirstie Williams	KW	Highways Manager (Kent County Council)
Denise Roffey	DR	CAIP Officer (Kent County Council)
Ron Butcher	RB	Other Interest Representative – Parish Councils & Disability
Anne Rillie	AR	User Representative – Equestrian
Jennie Bowen	JBow	Natural England
Amanda Corp	ACor	NFU – Landowner/Management Representative

Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of last meeting approved

Project Updates – North Downs Equestrian Route [NDER]

TT emphasized the need for transparency with possible issues and hinderances to the start of the project. Peter Morris – NDW National Trail Manager being the main point of contact for KCAF, but it is worth considering who may be the key stakeholders/decision makers regarding the progress and effective delivery of the project.

GR highlighted the need to liaise with those who would have to be involved in the delivery of the project and the need to produce a detailed project plan.

ABe: TT to contact BHS Ride UK group and find out how previous projects / research case studies to learn and apply to the NDER project. A good example would be Pennine way .

JBox encouraged the recruitment of an equestrian subgroup to look at this project. ABe suggested inviting non-KCAF members to get involved.

GR : Political buy in would be necessary given the resource implications.

GR: KCC can assist KCAF with planning costing and other procedures of the project management plan such as considering compensation, external funding and public inquiries.

There is also a need to consider the improvement of road crossings.

Matters arising not on agenda

ABe regarding the switch from Dropbox to Sharepoint

- Need for a guide for members – MA to formulate and email this to KCAF members.
- Resend/Send access details for KCAF members – MA to get in touch with Kent connects and arrange this.

ROWIP Consultation Questionnaire

ABr highlighted difficulty for some users to access questionnaires online.

Coastal Access Update (Natural England)

KH updated members on the following

- Work started on all stretches and expected to stick to deadline Dec 2020.
 - Brown lines indicates significant infrastructure in place and waiting for inspection
 - Green/yellow lines indicate work progressing
- Stretches progress update
 - Folkestone to Ramsgate – Stretch open, some issues around the Sandwich peninsular
 - Ramsgate to Whitstable – Issues at Kingsgate Bay road – Golf course requires screening from ECP route. KCC to submit planning permission for fencing
 - Whitstable to Iwade – Looking to open next year
 - Iwade to Grain – Francesca and Laura Whitfield as point of contact regarding conversation interests or improvements.
 - Isle of Sheppey – Rob Carver as point of contact. Looking to publish a report in Dec 2018 /Jan 2019
 - Grain to Woolwich – Nearly read to publish.
- What could cause delays?
 - Decision regarding an offshore windfarm – need for environmental impact assessment.

APPENDIX A : England Coastal Path – Stretch Progress 26th July 2018

ABr requested information on Cleve Hill Solar Park project highlighting impact on amenity / aesthetics. KH to gather information.

GR to raise issues regarding aesthetics/ amenity in response.

KH recommends 'Snail & the Whale – Downloaded by public to educate groups regarding coastal process. This will be made available to local businesses and Bed & breakfasts to raise awareness.

APPENDIX B - coastal-adventure-with-The-Snail-and-the-Whale .

JBox asked how much of the coastal path has cycle access.

KH notes that this information is available on the website.

GR raised the preferred option for an ECP National Trail Partnership London to Brighton (clockwise)

- Current funding formula
- Needs an officer to head up or take charge of this project – Recruitment
- Hoping that the partnership will be agreed by the end of the financial year
- There will be another meeting to agree reports and finalise details.

GR : National trails settlement for 2019 – 2020 has been agreed. There will be a 5% reduction in current funding.

GR : Government going through a funding review is worth knowing for Natural England. KH to pass this information on.

JBox : Is there anything KCAF can do to support National trails.

GR: Future national trails funding needs to be based on a formula that reflects actual requirements and the value to health , well-being and the rural economy.

Education Dog walkers

ABe raised awareness of recycling and environmentally friendly ideas such as

- Malvern Hills – Converting dog waste to power street lamps. (Fleming, 2018)
- Introducing recycling ideas for the county

JBox to investigate this scheme further.

ABr reported

- Banners have been used to increase awareness of Ramblers.
- Trails Guide by Robert Peel. (Ramblers.org.uk, 2018)

Byways and Highways Working group

ABe Blue dashed lines on surveyors' maps were raised by AR. Hugh Craddock had provided clarification as to the weight that may be given to the showing of routes in this way.

GR stated that KCC has 4 volunteers who undertake research of KCCs highway records, facilitating access for groups researching "lost ways". The research focusses on the Definitive Map – and preparatory surveys, highways gazetteer and other records where available such as adoption and side roads orders.

It is hoped that this will allow stakeholders to focus their efforts on historic research. If you have a query on a potential application please contact the PROW and Access Service for more information.

Ordnance Survey no longer intend to remove other routes with public access from their Land ranger/ Explorer maps.

Byways

ABe suggested that something needs to be done to firm up this path as it may worsen during the winter.

Membership

- David Brazier – has been contacted concerning being a KCC Elected Member appointed to the Access Forum.
- Vacancies – Charles Tassel suggested by JBox as a land manager representative.
- Disabled users – Denise Roffey to be asked to recommend a representative following her work for the ROWIP.
- Parish councils have the potential to offer more regarding PROW use, improvement and volunteers.
GR suggested JBox to contact Clive Powell and Terry Martin Kent Association of Local Councils.
- Land managers – Suggested JBox contact Toby Williams. GR to help if possible.
- MA to put contact details up on SharePoint once approved.
- Avoid BCC's – MA to clarify with Nathalie Liddiard
- Old website is live and to be removed.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- Public consultation stage until 12th of September
- Forwarded to members in November

ABe enquired regarding changes in length Rights of way;

- Where are they?
- What is the progress?
- Has the Equestrian information taken out of policy?
- How are the routes decided? There has been no consultation

APPENDIX ABe Email 2010

GR mentioned that there are a huge number of projects that are suggested but not successfully accepted to move forward

JBox highlighted that Hampshire CAF has set up an equestrian group to get funding. There is a potential for KCAF equestrian sub group.

ABe highlighted where some projects may not be funded or supported, KCAF could help.

ABr mentioned that Ramblers have helped improve signage at Elham valley way.

ABe encouraged that KCC needs to push publications to the right audience.

GR highlighted that Explore Kent is dependent on funding from numerous sources and priority tends to follow the funding available.

Future direction of KCAF

JBox encouraged collaboration of different organisations, which may be able to get more funding.

JBox suggested GR to feedback projects in the pipeline.

JBox to work on plan for creating awareness of forum.

JBox suggested having an annual report that states record of Forum achievements. ABe how to document this for future achievements?

TT asked how useful the National Conferences are to members.

Abe having attended suggested that it is useful for networking. However, there were a lack of actions to commit to.

Data Protection (GDPR General Data Protection Regulations 2018)

Application forms may need to resubmitted. GR to investigate and advice regarding length of tenure and whether this needs to be done.

KCAF Project/ Agenda Items for next meeting

Highland Court Farm – KCC has made comments but KCAF hasn't yet.

Abe enquired regarding the protection of existing ROW.

- What is there and required?
- Better connectivity and Segregated provision?

GR advice and guidance to prompt planners and developers to have input from KCAF & endorsement.

To add more items to the Agenda for December, please email JBox.

AOB

- RD to work on Highways project
- Would members like to change the September meeting to October?
 - MA to send round poll for future meetings and dates to members and record.

Date of next meeting

- Monday 10th December 2018
Time: 1.45pm
Venue: International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU.

Appendix A - Links

Fleming, N. (2018). *From stools to fuels: the street lamp that runs on dog do*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/01/stools-to-fuels-street-lamp-runs-on-dog-poo-bio-energy-waste-> [Accessed 26 Sep. 2018].

Ramblers.org.uk. (2018). *Walking guidebooks - Ramblers*. [online] Available at: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/navigation/walking-guidebooks.aspx#kent> [Accessed 26 Sep. 2018].